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RURAL DISTRICT OF DRIFFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1954

including

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:
L. S. BIELBY.

Vice-Chairman:
G. W. E. OGDEN.

Members:

ELING, Mrs. D. A.	MIDDLEWOOD, H.
HOGARTH, Mrs. E. J.	NOBLE, J. W.
SLATER, Mrs. H. M.	PICKERING, T. V.
SHELLS, Rev. H. (resigned September, 1954)	PORRITT, C. (death 23.9.54)
HOBSON, G. R.	ROBINSON, J. D.
HOPPER, J. W.	SISSONS, A. W.
WALKER, G. L.	TAYLOR, H. J.

Clerk of the Council:
R. B. TOLLETT.

*Medical Officer of Health and Divisional Medical Officer,
East Riding County Council:*
E. T. COLVILLE, M.D., M.B., B.S.(Hons.), B.Hy., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor, and Housing Manager:
S. WRIGGLESWORTH, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:
F. SKIRROW, M.S.I.A., R.S.I. Cert. for Meat and Other Foods.
(Appointed 1.4.1954.)

Waterworks Engineer and Inspector:
T. LEARY.

Consulting Engineer:
D. H. MOORE, B.Sc., M.I.C.E.

DIVISIONAL HEALTH OFFICE,
SCHOOL CLINIC,
OXFORD STREET,
BRIDLINGTON.

*To the Chairman and Conncillors,
Rural District of Driffield.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1954.

There have been no specific factors affecting the public health during the year.

I take this opportunity of thanking the Health Committee of the Council and my fellow officials for their ready assistance at all times.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. T. COLVILLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL MEMORANDUM.

Rural District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Driffield
Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98,423
Population: 1954 Registrar General	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,270
Product of penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£165
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£41,205
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,321
Birth-rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.6
Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.3
Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.7

VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) LIVE BIRTHS.

					Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	96	75	171
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
							<hr/> 176 <hr/>

Birth-rate 15.6 per 1,000

Percentage of illegitimate births 2.8

(b) STILL-BIRTHS.

There were 5 still-births (legitimate) during the year, equivalent to a rate of 0.44 per 1,000 population.

(c) DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered during the year as belonging to the Rural District was 127. This is equal to a death rate of 11.3 per 1,000. The comparability factor to correct the crude death-rate for age and sex distribution in the Rural District is calculated by the Registrar General at 0.94. This, on multiplication with the actual rate, gives a comparative death-rate of 10.6 per 1,000.

The causes are given in Table 1.

(d) INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

There were 4 deaths (legitimate) in infants under 1 year of age. The infantile mortality rate based upon the number of live births registered during the year, i.e., 176, is equivalent to a rate of 22.7 per 1,000 births.

(e) MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths from maternal causes.

TABLE I.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN DRIFFIELD R.D., 1954 (R.G.).

						Males.	Females.
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	74	53
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cancer, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Cancer, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Cancer, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Cancer, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Cancer, other sites	...	...	...	...	...	8	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	6	7
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	12	4
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	11	11
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	9	2

TABLE II.

1954 PROVISIONAL STATISTICS—ENGLAND AND WALES.

BIRTHS.

Live births	...	...	15.2 per 1,000 home population.
Still-births	...	...	24.0 per 1,000 total live and still-births.

DEATHS.

Death-rate	...	...	11.3 per 1,000 home population.
Infant mortality	...	...	25.5 per 1,000 related live births.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year:—

Erysipelas...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	16
Poliomyelitis (P)	...	...	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	16
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	5

There were no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The number of children who completed the full course of immunisation in the Authority's area between 1st January and 31st December, 1954, is as follows:—

Under 5 years.	5—14 years.
129	5

In addition, 18 children received boosting doses.

The estimated number of children immunised at any time who were born between 1940 and 1954, inclusive, is as follows:—

Under 5 years.	5—14 years.
456	1,325

TUBERCULOSIS, 1954.

The Register of Tuberculosis for the year is as follows:—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
Number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1953 ...	12	11	1	2	26
Added to the Register:—					
(a) Cases notified for the first time during the year ...	3	1	1	1	6
(b) Un-notified cases brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification...	2	—	—	—	2
Removed from the Register on account of death, change of address, etc. ...	2	2	—	—	4
Number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1954 ...	15	10	2	3	30

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens for bacteriological and pathological examinations are sent either to the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Hull or to the Pathological Laboratory at the County Hospital, Beverley. The bacteriological examination of water supplies, milk supplies and ice cream is carried out at the Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Hull.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The service is maintained by the County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are maintained by the East Riding County Council. Clinics serving the area are established in Driffield, Kilham and Middleton.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

The Divisional and Assistant Divisional Medical Officers are responsible for these services in the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year under review the Water Committee of the Council accepted a tender for the sinking and testing of two bores in the parish of Kilham.

The first bore was sunk to a depth of 200', the drillers striking water at 46'. After the 200' was reached a pumping unit was installed and a 14 days continuous pumping test made. During this time 23,500,000 gallons were extracted, the level in the bore dropping only 4'. At the conclusion of the test the level rose again very rapidly, gaining in 4 minutes the 4' lost during pumping. The quality of the water is Class 1, Highly Satisfactory. The permanent hardness is 69 parts per million. The site has been bought and fenced in. At the time of writing this report, the Council has ordered the pumping machinery and placed contracts for the supply of pipes, etc., and the laying of them.

58 new connections were made to the Council's main during the year, 25 metered and 33 domestic.

Water at Hutton and Nafferton pumping stations is chlorinated, the re-agent used being Voxan Special Type C solution, and the feeders by Wallace & Tiernan, Ltd., the dosage per 30,000 gallons of raw water being 2 gallons of 0.5% solution at Hutton and 2½ gallons 0.5% solution at Nafferton.

15 samples of raw water from the pumping stations and 20 from public standpipes or consumer points were submitted for bacteriological examination. All of these were reported as highly satisfactory with the

exception of 3 of the samples from consumer taps or standpipes which were unsatisfactory only insofar as they did not reach the standard for a chlorinated water. Repeat samples on these, however, were highly satisfactory.

4 of the 6 samples taken from private supplies were unsatisfactory, and in these cases consumers were immediately advised to boil all water for drinking purposes, and steps were taken to ensure a suitable supply. To this end one well supply at Bainton was closed for domestic use. A disused and dilapidated pump was dismantled at Garton and the well filled in.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Early in the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government indicated that the Minister was prepared to include in the Department's Current Investment Programme the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes for North Dalton, Langtoft and Hutton Cranswick with Watton, but that the proposals for Beeford could not be included; the latter scheme to be kept under review for approval as soon as circumstances permitted.

The schemes for North Dalton, Langtoft and Hutton Cranswick with Watton (which had been revised to incorporate certain amendments suggested by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government) were considered by the Council and approved in principle, but the Council decided that the laying of certain sections of sewer in each scheme were not, at the present time, essential, and it was decided to defer the laying of these sections until a later date. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government were informed of this decision and furnished with amended estimates of the revised proposals which were still under consideration by the Ministry at the close of the year.

During the year the Air Ministry's Sewage Disposal Works and Ejector Station at Watton were transferred to the Council and will be utilised in connection with the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal proposals for Hutton Cranswick and Watton. The site of the Ejector Station at Watton was also purchased by the Council during the year and negotiations for the purchase of other land required for sewage works sites, etc., were commenced.

During the year the old sewage works at Wetwang were dismantled and all useful parts salvaged therefrom, and the irrigation area formed to the new works as per the Consulting Engineer's specification. The North Frodingham sewage works were overhauled and defective equipment renewed, though even after this was carried out the works are still considerably overloaded. The soakaway system at Fridaythorpe was extensively improved, involving the re-laying of 100 yards of pipe. 100 yards of new 4" pipes were laid at Wetwang to by-pass the pond and avoid contamination to same. At Garton 120 yards of 6" and 4" drain were laid from the Church View Council Houses to the existing main sewer.

At Middleton 100 yards sewer were laid in 9" pipes in Chapel Lane and a section of the sewer from No. 16, Mill Field Garth, re-laid. A section of sewer from Chapel Lane junction was ploughed and dredged, 10 tons of silt being removed.

At Foston, 2 ponds were filled in, and an old brick culvert near the Blacksmith's Shop replaced with 6" pipes.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Conversions of pail closets to water closets have been carried out in both villages where connections can be made direct to sewer, and in other villages where it is necessary to provide septic tanks for the treatment of the sewage. These conversions have increased somewhat in number, due partly to the encouragement of such work in schemes qualifying for grant under the Housing Act, 1949. The Council have not taken any action under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to secure any conversions. However, with the completion of the re-sewerage schemes envisaged in the previous section, it is anticipated that there will be a further marked increase in the number of pail closet conversions. All new houses provided by the Council's Housing Programme have been provided with water closets, and where there is no sewerage system these are dealt with through septic tanks of the pattern recommended in the Housing Manual for small sewage disposal works.

In all, a total of 54 water closets were provided by conversion from pail closets during the year, including those carried out under Improvement Grants. The approximate numbers of the various types of accommodation at the end of the year were 941 water closets, 2,133 pail closets and 339 privy middens, the latter being located in the isolated parts of the district.

SCAVENGING AND CLEANSING.

The position as to scavenging throughout the district remains materially the same as described in previous reports, viz., that the collection of indestructible household refuse by the Council's refuse collection vehicle takes place on a fixed day once per calendar month in each village, while the villages of Nafferton and Wansford have also a weekly collection of pail closets, though in the latter village the arrangement is a private one with the householders by the contractor, who is paid by the Council for his work at Nafferton.

Cleansing of pail closets, privies and ashpits where they still exist is the responsibility of the householders in the rest of the district, with consequent fouling of land, to a very marked degree where the area is limited.

It is impossible to feel complacent as to the adequacy of this Service and the need for a more frequent and comprehensive Service must necessarily be given serious consideration in the future.

The 173 houses on the Driffeld R.A.F. Station are the only ones in the district at present given a weekly collection of dustbin contents, this being a special arrangement with the Air Ministry.

Whilst on the question, the lack of proper means for cleansing sludge, etc., from septic tanks to the Council Houses and settling tanks for village sewage works also deserves mention. In the main this work is carried out by hand, the contents being discharged into small lagoons close to the sites. It has long been felt that this method is in many cases both wasteful in man-power and objectionable, and during the year I have made enquiries as to the possibility of the loan of a cesspool emptier from the Bridlington Rural District Council for this work. I hope to be able to report on this vehicle's work in my next report, together with any long-term policy that may develop from same.

During the year additional litter baskets have been provided at Hutton, Cranswick, Middleton, Nafferton, North Frodingham, Foston, Harpham, Kilham, Sledmere and Langtoft, now making a total of 14 throughout the District.

SALVAGE.

Tins, light metal and other salvageable materials delivered to the Council's tips are sold to a Salvage Dealer. The Dealer is responsible for sorting and loading his own transport and the income derived from these sales amounts to £30.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following Tabular Statement sets out the number and nature of inspections made, types of premises visited, purpose of these visits, actions taken and results of such action:—

	Inspections.	No. in District.
Houses—for Rural Housing Survey (under £20 R.V.)	40	2,912
Houses—for all other purposes	367	3,148 (excl. R.A.F.)
Houses—subsequent visits	109	
Houses—informal action taken	38	
Houses—informal action complied with	33	
Houses—found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	38	
Houses—found overcrowded during the year... ..	3	
Houses—found overcrowded at end of year	37	
Houses—disinfected after infectious disease	1	
Houses—disinfested for vermin (bed-bugs)	Nil	
New Houses built by the Council		28
New Houses built by private enterprise		16
New Houses in course of erection by the Council		Nil
New Houses in course of erection by private enterprise		6
Drainage Works—all types of premises	189	
Water Supplies—all types of premises	54	
Shops, other than Meat Shops	72	
Meat Shops, Stalls, etc.	251	

Ice-cream—registered premises	...	...	...	47
Other Food Inspections	...	...	...	82
Dairies	...	...	...	6
Knackers' Yards	...	...	...	15
Rats and Mice Destruction	...	...	...	305
Privy and Pail Closets converted to Water Closets	...	...	...	54
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	Nil
Nuisances found and remedied	...	...	...	25
Water Samples sent for Bacteriological Examination—total	...	...	...	45
Water Samples sent for Bacteriological Examination from Pumping Stations	...	...	...	15
Water Samples sent for Bacteriological Examination from Public Stand-taps	...	...	...	20
Water Samples sent for Bacteriological Examination from Private Supplies	...	...	...	10
Unsatisfactory reports on Bacteriological Examination from Private Supplies	...	...	...	4
Repeat samples satisfactory on Bacteriological Examination from Private Supplies	...	...	...	Nil
Well closed (water unfit)	...	...	...	1

CAMPING SITES.

Licences have been issued authorising persons to erect or station and use moveable dwellings in accordance with Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936; these being as follows:—Beeford 1, Eastburn 1, Gembling 1, Kilham 2, Lowthorpe 1, Nafferton 2, North Frodingham 9, Watton 1.

A licence was also issued in respect of a camping site for 9 caravans at the King's Head Inn, Nafferton.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the district, either public or private.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's rodent control operates under the system of part grant towards the work from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, subject to the standard of control being satisfactory. Two sewer treatments were carried out during the year, one incorporating a complete test bait of the district's sewers. Regular treatments were given to the Cranswick tip and other known black spots in various villages, results generally being very satisfactory. In addition, treatments were given to many private premises under the scheme.

The Rodent Control Section of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries gives a regular treatment under contract to a great many farms in the district, and this service cannot be too highly recommended to all

farmers not already availing themselves of same, as a suitable means of fulfilling their responsibility under the Act to control and eradicate rat infestation on their premises.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

No Council Houses or private houses were found to be infested with bed-bugs, but disinfestations were carried out for fleas and cockroaches.

SCHOOLS.

Whilst most schools have laid-on water supplies, sanitary accommodation consists in many cases of out-of-date pail closets. It is gratifying, however, to be able to report that the conversion of closet accommodation to water closets has been effected at the Wetwang and Fridaythorpe Schools.

HOUSING.

During the year the cost of building has continued to rise and the Council has endeavoured to keep costs down by designing small traditional houses and bungalows with 7' 6" ceiling heights, also the latest designs have included pre-cast concrete eavesgutters.

The Council, with slum clearance in mind, has embarked upon a programme of 18 houses which caters mainly for families living in houses which were condemned pre-war, and has indicated a future programme to deal with all the existing condemned houses.

6 pre-war Council Houses at Bainton have been provided with water closets in lieu of pail closets.

Council Houses completed during the year as follows:—

					Houses.	Bungalows.
Wansford ... ..	...	...	...	...	6	—
North Dalton ... ..	...	...	...	...	4	—
Hutton Cranswick...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Langtoft ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	4
Beeford ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	—
Watton ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	—
North Frodingham ... ..	...	...	...	...	4	—
					—	—
					24	4
					—	—

Total number of Council Houses occupied at end of

year 445

There were no Council Houses actually in course of erection at the end of the year, but tenders had been accepted for the erection of 18 houses as follows:—

Kilham ... ..	...	...	...	...	4
Middleton ... ..	...	...	...	...	8
Nafferton ... ..	...	...	...	...	6
					—
					18
					—

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at
end of year 272

Under private enterprise 16 houses have been completed and 6 are in course of erection, all of traditional types.

During the year 8 cases of overcrowding were abated by moving into Council Houses.

There was a marked increase during the year in the number of applications received for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949. Of the 16 applications received, 3 were approved for 50% grant, 12 for 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % grant (1 being for maximum of £400), and 1 for 25%, all these figures being based on the final improvement figure after deductions for repairs, and work above or outside the standard of the Act. 2 of these schemes were later withdrawn and re-submitted in an amended form.

In the case of 4 of the above-mentioned applications, the work was completed during the year under review, as were 5 schemes approved in previous years.

Regarding the Rural Housing Survey, the figures are categorised as follows:—

Number of houses in district	...	...	...	3,148
Number of houses in district under £20 R.V.	...	...	...	2,912
Total inspected up to 31st December, 1954	...	...	...	1,931

Category.

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	Overcrowded.
	471	264	697	141	474	37
percentage	24.4%	13.7%	36.1%	7.3%	24.5%	1.9%

FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

10 samples of milk were taken for biological examination during the year in the Driffield Rural District, 9 being reported as negative for tubercle bacilli, and in the other case the guinea pig died—the result, therefore, being inconclusive. These samples are taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries officers and are reported to this Council for information and action in any positive cases.

By far the largest proportion of milk retailed in the district is supplied by large dairy owners to individual distributors.

Licences issued by this Authority during the year were as follows:—

For sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	7
For sale of Pasteurised Milk	...	...	6
For sale of Sterilised Milk	...	...	14

ICE CREAM.

24 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, only 1 of these being manufactory. Supplies are chiefly from firms of national repute, with sales in pre-packed form. Of the 17 samples taken, 13 were reported Grade I. and 4 as Grade II.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

In common with all other districts the Council had to consider the question of licensing private slaughterhouses to provide adequate facilities on the de-centralisation of killing which operated from the beginning of July, 1954.

8 private slaughterhouses were licensed, these covering fairly representatively the various parts of the district. No applications for licences were refused, though in 2 cases it was intimated that considerable improvements would be asked for in the event of applications being submitted. The butchers concerned decided in these circumstances not to proceed with their applications. In the cases of the 8 licensed slaughterhouses, repairs and improvements such as wall and ceiling surfaces were effected where necessary. Having in mind the limited amount of slaughter and the degree of cleanliness generally achieved by the users it is felt that whilst in some cases the premises fall short of the desired standard for slaughterhouses, in the main one must be satisfied that users have provided reasonable facilities and are achieving satisfactory results. The uncertainty of the position of these private slaughterhouses, pending any definition of the national slaughtering policy by the Government, precludes any extensive works.

Towards the end of August a marked increase in killing at one slaughterhouse followed the use of the premises by a London firm who were killing quite large numbers of calves and transporting them to Smithfield Market in London. The firm later killed sheep and pigs for the same supply.

100% inspection of all carcasses slaughtered was maintained and the total number of visits made for meat inspection up to the end of the year was 422.

Condemned meat and offals are coloured green with a dyestuff specially prepared for the purpose and the surrender certificate issued incorporates a form of receipt from the collector which is signed to the effect that none of the meat will be used for human consumption.

Numbers inspected :—

Beasts	...	...	...	...	332
Sheep	...	...	...	...	938
Pigs	...	...	...	...	514
Calves	...	...	...	...	4,667

Condemnations :—

				Beasts.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.
<i>Tuberculosis.</i>							
Carcase and Organs	...	...	...	—	—	—	10
Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	20	—	26	—
Livers	...	...	...	8	—	3	—
Lungs	...	...	...	32	—	5	—
Mesenteries	...	...	...	11	—	10	—
Udders	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Part Carcases	...	...	...	2	—	1	—

Other than Tuberculosis.

Carcase and Organs	...	...	...	2	8	3	51
Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	6	—	—	—
Livers	...	...	...	12	54	1	1
Lungs	...	...	...	1	14	2	1
Udders	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Part Carcases	...	...	...	5	5	1	—

10 premises were on the register for the preparation of preserved food.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSE OF PROVISION AS TO HEALTH.

Premises.	No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	2
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	30	36
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—
Total ...	31	38

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):		
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—
(b) Unsuited or defective ...	1	1
Total ...	1	1

